

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a stabilized nucleic acid that kills tumor cells and methods for producing the same. Specifically, the nucleic acid drug comprises pairs of viral inverted terminal repeat hairpin loops which elicit cell apoptosis. The present invention also provides methods for making such a stabilized nucleic acid drug as well as methods for targeting the drug to a cell nucleus or genome. Accordingly, the nucleic acid drug of the present invention is useful for inducing apoptosis in cells, especially those lacking p53, such as cancer cells.